American Women Missionaries and Pioneers Collection

Part 1: Missionaries

The Irene Forsythe Hanson Papers, 1921-1980

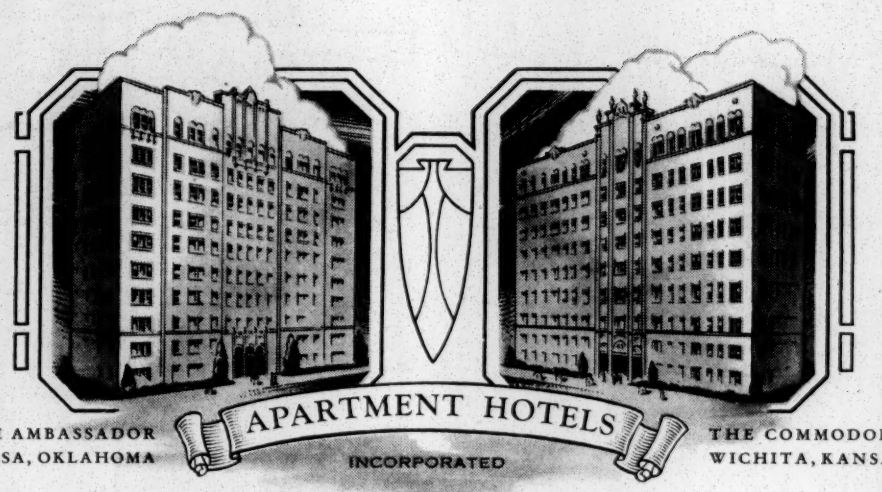
Series I

Correspondence
(Incoming and outgoing intermixed)

Folder Description:

Form letters describing Hanson's missionary work and life experience in China,
November 19, 1945–April 1946

Box Number:	***Folder Number:***
3	36



THE AMBASSADOR
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

APARTMENT HOTELS
INCORPORATED

THE COMMODORE
WICHITA, KANSAS

The COMMODORE
WICHITA, KANSAS

The AMBASSADOR
TULSA, OKLAHOMA

WRITTEN AT 645 Ontario
Oak Park, Illinois
November 19, 1945

The Rev. & Mrs.

Dear Friends -

Thank you for your remembering during the stiff month of November & especially the cooperation on the B. - N. conference. I can't write much but the busy girls in the office can get out a short report to go at once to you. A longer letter will come later.

The month had some wonderful experiences in the conferences at Cedar Rapids, ~~Illinois~~ Wichita, then in Arkansas at Harrison & Siloam Springs. The

In the middle of the conference in New York came the long hoped-for necessity of flying. It was wonderful. The cities were marvelous islands of glimmering fairy land. The sunset and aqua sunrise over Newfoundland panorama. I'm utterly ruined for wheelbarrows! Spring should find me China bound.

The conference was a Summit Servant Church conference on Monday but as marvelous high pow made us weak + gasping at the magnitude of the task ahead. Our sufficiency is of God.

Dr. Clark of Korea + Mr. Wallace team mates for the B-M. conferences; team: It was great fun with the fellowship and experiences with those full busy days. Besides the missionary talks I Dr. Clark's excellent Bible expositions in Ezekiel; the gospel of the glory; Philippians Colossians and Mr. Wallace's keen grasp of the Holy Spirit & Missions Studies as in Acts were so combined with the missionary messages that it the clear leading of the Holy Spirit in the preparation of the team was striking. Missions was presented from the Biblical

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Results can never be tabulated.
After the attempt is odious and
surely ~~one~~ not one of us would
want to "touch the glory" — in
any personal way. Your prayers
& your part were honored by
~~the~~ The Master. We felt it very duly
~~was~~ and thank you. Sincerely,

While we wished for larger
crowds — one always does for
the Kingdom's sake they locally
raid 1500 were reached at
Iowa city, 3000 — with 17 churches
represented at Wichita ~~at~~
1500 at Harrison, & Siloam Springs
the radio audience can't be
judged.

~~It was felt that~~ The Pastors felt there ~~were some~~ very deep and lasting results from the more intensive continued presentation the campaign. Until afterward in Wichita I gave 1/4 more than last year ~~after for the~~ toward Restoration Fund and a gift of $100 — Savings from egg money — was given by one woman for Japanese Restoration

"I believe now in Foreign Missions" "You've convinced me for the first time"

This was the first thing Wichita has ever had in line of missions promotion "You will never know how much this has meant" were some of the evaluations given the team. Self-your prayers were important!

I'm writing of this as it a new form of promotion and with still questioning as to the best methods, use of time, and suggested schedules. We see many places to improve

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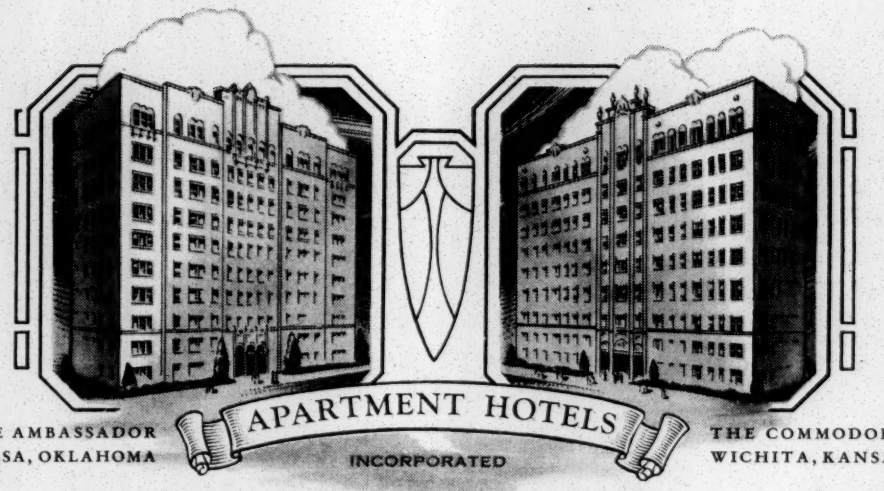
but do feel that as a method with the right personnel & set up it is very valuable and should be continuable, It should reach more people ~~in Community work at~~ local ~~to~~ the Team could ought to ~~to~~ , and the team must from ~~the~~ with real cooperation ~~churches~~ denominations would really be community-work, ~~it might~~ That is something to strive for.

I'll be carrying on here another month and then probably will get into immigration routine & hope very early Spring to be China bound — of that more later ——

The Seasons Best ——

"What new thing" can we do to share the "Love of God ~~that~~ at this time of ~~suffering~~ & starvation

Who gives himself
with his right hand
three — himself
the hungering neighbor
and me



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in other churches

~~grade & High~~ for Service clubs, ~~Schools~~ ~~radio~~, Sunday Schools, religious Education. college chapels classes, Special Youth groups ~~and interviews~~ and in Siloam Springs three ~~to~~ long talks over a local radio station. Numerous personal contacts were maybe ~~The~~ In ~~numerous~~ ~~radio~~ ~~more~~ ~~more~~ impact ~~The times of~~ ~~visits~~ & meals homes ~~were~~ ~~in~~ Homes were opened with delightful simplicity ~~about~~ Also, to be remembered were the beautiful ~~hospitality~~ ~~into~~ homes in ~~Siloam~~ ~~Springs~~ ~~Arkansas~~ homes. We felt that ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~truly~~ ~~were~~ a love-gift ~~is~~ meant "water from Bullhuis well" ~~the~~ not for us ~~alone~~ but something very lovely & fine as given to the Master. "only We were the ~~receivers~~ ~~chosen~~ — humanly.

HOTEL ROOMS HOUSEKEEPING APARTMENTS

"Twenty-four Hour Service"

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background, the present scope and
challenge. The Motion pictures, modelling of numerous
costumes of the countries, + display
of curios brought the far away lands
reality. "Unafraid" to a unusual new
The very great enthusiasm in
wearing the clothes, so unpretentiously
among the young + even older
men, seemed an index of the
welcome given us.
The last nite in S. S. there were over 30
parties ~~1000~~ 500 much can't be said
in praise of the local porters
for their great detailed ~~background~~
preparation, arranging local schedules
and splendid cooperation.
Besides the two conference meetings

each day there were talks

160

645 Ontario
Oak Park, Illinois
December 18, 1945

Dear Friends:

Thanks to you who had me and the Bible- Missionary conferences tucked in your prayer- hearts during the stiff month of November. I can't write much but the busy girls in the office will try to get this out before Christmas. A longer letter will reach you late .

November had some wonderful experiences in the conferences at Cedar, Rapids, Wichita, and the, our, in Arkansas at Harrison and Siloam Springs. In the middle of them, a Sunday night service here in Chicago and the Conference for the List "A" Returning missionaries in New York the following Monday , gave me the long-hoped for necessity for flying. It was wonderful. We flew over the cities - marvelous, glimmering islands of fairyland and the illusion was climaxed by flying into a cerise and aqua sunrise over New York's panorama! I am utterly ruined for the ground , especially wheelbarrows.

The conference in New York was a highpoint of inspiration but made us weak and gasping at the magnitude of the tasks ahead. Fortunately our sufficiency is of God not ourselves.

For the Bible- Missionary Conferences Dr. Allen Clark of Korea and The Rev. J.E. Wallace , of India were teammates . They were perfectly splendid. It was great fun , with the fellowship and the experiences of the full busy days. Dr. Clark's excellent Bible expositions in Ezekiel-the gospel of the Glory-, Philippians, and Colossians, and Mr. Wallace's keen fresh studies of The Holy Spirit and Missions in THE Acts so combined with the missionary messages that the very clear, definite leading of the Holy Spirit in the preparation of us as a team was striking. Missions were presented from the Biblical background along with the present scope and challenge. Informally , the motion pictures, the modelling of numerous costumes of the countries, and the display of curios ~~brought~~ brought the faraway lands to a new visual reality. The very great enthusiasm in wearing the clothes, so unexpected among the young ~~men~~ and even older ~~o~~men , was a sort of an index of the enthusiasm aroused. The last night in Siloam Springs there were over thirty volunteers all in costume. We had some great welcomes!

Too much appreciation can not be given to the local pastors for their detailed background preparation, the arranging of the local schedules, and splendid cooperation. Bedides the two daily meetings in the conference churches, there were talks in other churches, for Service clubs, Grade and High Schools, Sunday schools, religious education classes, college chapels, and by special youth groups.

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HOTEL ROOMS HOUSEKEEPING APARTMENTS

"Twenty-four Hour Service"

In Siloam Springs three long talks were arranged over the local radio station. Numerous personal contacts were perhaps even more important. Also , to be remembered , with deep humility, was the beautiful hospitality in the various homes. We felt that such sharings truly were love- gifts ,'water from Bethlehem's well' as it were, meant not for us at all , but something very lovely and fine given to The Master. We were only the human receivers.

Results can never be tabulated. Often the attempt is odious and surely not one of us would want to'touch the Glory' in any personal way. Your prayers were honored by The Master ; we felt it very deeply and thank you sincerely.

While we wished for larger crowds- one always does for The Kingdom's sake- numbers are never a spiritual measurement. Locally they said 1500 were reached in Iowa City; 3000 - with 17 different churches represented at Wichita; 1500 at Harrison and at Siloam Springs, with perhaps the best proportionate attendance, the radio audience can't be judged. The pastors felt that the intensive continued presentation gave very deep and lasting results. The conference church in Wicita, afterward , gave one fourth more than last year for the Wartime Service fund, and a gift of $100.00- savings from egg money was given by one woman for Japanese restoration.

"I believe now in Foreign Missions", "You've convinced me for the first time" ," This is the finest thing Wichita has ever had in the promotion for Missions", "You'll never know how much this has meant" were some of the evaluations given to the team . See! how important your prayers were!

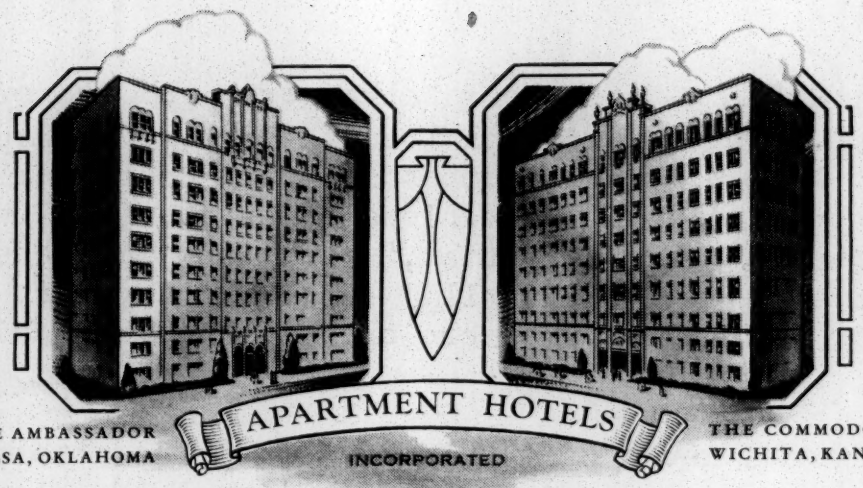
I'm writing of this as it is a new form of promotion and we are still questioning as to the best methods, use of time, suggested schedules, and the valuation. We see many places for improvement but do feel that as a method , with the right personnel and local cooperation it does have great possibilities. More people should be reached. If the team included those of different denominations with full cooperation it could be community - wide. It has been a great experiment . Again thank you for your part.

I'll probably have Christmas with Paul Fan. Will be carrying on here thru January, then will begin on the immunization and passport routine going to Oregon for that. Early Spring I should be China bound but cannot give more certain word now.

What 'new thing' can we do to share God's love with the cold and starving, and to bring the Season's message to waiting hearts?

'Who gives himself with his gifts feeds three
Himself, the hungering neighbor, and ME'

My Best for All, Sincerely,



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December 19, 1945

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be remembered, with deep humility, was the beautiful hospitality in the various homes. We felt that such sharings truly were love-gifts, 'water from Bethlehem's well' as it were, meant not for us at all, but something very lovely and fine given to The Master. We were only the human receivers.

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Himself, the hungering neighbor, and ME'

My best for All,

Sincerely,

Irene Forsythe

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.A.
77 West Washington St.
Chicago 2, Ill.

710 Jefferson St.
Oregon City, Oregon
January 31, 1946

Dear Friends to Whom I Belong:

Early in March I will be China bound. Sailing date and other news will come later but now I am writing a request because I cannot come to ask you in person. I have the strictest orders for the time left here. The series of six or more immunization shots, preparation and packing, some needed rest will make a full month. You already know my heart. It is the same as I know your hearts are. I'm glad I belong to you and you will guess how I will need your prayers.

ANY CLOTHES LEFT? WANTED - RELIEF THINGS FOR TSINGTAO

A Baptist missionary who recently went to Tsingtao took 1000 pounds of used clothing. 'They were soon cleaned out.' 'I have been outfitting whole families, I'm sure glad I brought them,' he writes. 'All are in rags and tatters' another writes.

Many articles are unobtainable. Plain cotton cloth is $9. U.S. currency a yard. The needs of Christians and Chinese friends will be unlimited but even a loving token-assistance will bring warmth and cheer. Foreigners--missionaries out of concentration camps, those of neutral nations who were there through the war, Swiss and other nationals--all are in need.

Miss Hilma Madelaire of our mission is Danish so she was free. All of those years she worked, managed to get food into the camps and literally kept people alive. 'She is now in great need,' the Baptist missionary writes. SIZE 40 or larger I think will fit her. Anything, everything will be needed.

I CAN GET RELIEF FUNDS FOR FREIGHT TO TAKE ANYTHING YOU GET TO ME. Please Hurry! I'll love being your representative if you haven't already given to the limit. Send before March 1 to

Miss Irene Forsythe
710 Jefferson St.
Oregon City, Oregon

SUGGESTIONS

For CHINESE and FOREIGNERS. Men's clothing, warm sweaters, coats, dresses, blankets, towels, soap, thread, needles, children's clothes--anything really.

For CHINESE. Yard goods (shorter lengths of colored cloth for children; plain darker colors for adults). Cotton for padding would be wonderful. I fear too hard to get. Simple warm things can be used however. These are only suggestions. Your hearts of love will find other things. Money, of course, is usable.

I cannot thank you--these are gifts for HIM. I'll be very grateful to you. He will bless I'm sure.

Most sincerely,

Irene Forsythe

Permanent address
c/o Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, N.Y.

(46)

THE MISSIONARY "PIGS IS PIGS"

You Blessed Folks:

Caps. Who ever dreamed it! SIX TONS!

Thoughts of suffering and starvation among folks in China kept me from sleeping, and at 3 A.M. prompted the scribbled copy of that letter to you for relief gifts. It met your wonderful hearts of love. A missionary, "PIGS IS PIGS" began. You recall the story of a pair of guinea pigs undelivered at a railway station and how they multiplied until they overflowed the freight office. My wildest hope was to have a few hundred pounds to go into my trunk. Caps. March 13th, 9 tons of ~~articles in 30 wooden boxes~~ CHINA RELIEF — 6 tons of articles in 30 huge wooden boxes -left for Seattle to go by Navy boat direct to Tsingtao.

When the first box of some 30 pounds came to the Presbyterian Manse at Oregon City, the excitement began. The articles were carefully itemized. More boxes came, interest increased, the cartons were moved to the church basement. I went away for three days, snug in heart, with the thought of 400 pounds for China. On my return I was wide-eyed at 1000 pounds piled up. Your letters poured in telling of cartons enroute. Express and parcel post men unloaded whole truck loads. More 'Pigs,' Money gifts came too. No more itemizing! We attempted only a record of the number of pounds. I sat all mornings thanking the givers, my sister helping to keep the records. Then afternoons and evenings we worked with

volunteers to sort and pile the articles . One long table the length of the basement surely would be enough! Piles of cartons swamped us! We took time out to check over the names and addresses lest one be missed and to pile the huge boxes on tables so the Sunday School could go on. 14 cartons from one place, two sealed drums, stiffed gunny sacks, 600 pounds, - so they came. capes- The 'PIGS' were multiplying. When Presbyterians really get stirred up anything can happen. A wire to Dr. Ruland warned him of the tons. He took it nobly. Dr and Mrs. Achor were wonderful. In spite of their busy church schedules they gave hours to this work. The second week the tables almost crowded out the Sunday School and Boy Scouts but we cleared one corner. The scouts gleefully modelled the women's clothes and searched for stamps. By the third Sunday 4 tons were on the tables so all had to flee. We could scarcely keep up with the record of the weight but continued the 'thank-you' cards. The delivery men even help to record names. "Another shipment"- "More boxes"_"more money gifts" became the mealtime talk.

Boys scouts helped, young people put up tables, women re-sorted and arranged the contents, ~~which~~ Al-most all went thru my hands first, so I have seen your hearts. Day after day the incoming loads of 'gifts-of-loving-hearts ' poured in. Newspapers vied for the story

and took pictures for their papers.

Only SUCH GIFTS THE BEST You, dear ones from all over the United States, already cleaned out by previous drives, bought new things, sent gold-star son's clothing, gave precious things of loved ones gone (even two Mothers' shawls), ~~gave~~ included memorial gifts, special rugs, furs, all sorts of valuables, as well as unbelievable quantities of useful, warm, durable clothes. I deeply appreciate the unusual quality of what you sent. Even the packers were impressed by that. Great loving thoughtfulness and sacrifice went into those boxes. Thank you so much for the personal gifts, enclosed for me and for Miss Madelaire. There were $40.00 specified for her and many lovely things for her to choose from. May our Master really thank you for that is beyond my power.

Copies. ~~Groups from 14~~ Many different groups ~~have co-operated~~ in this ~~effort.~~ 9 states and 38 towns in Oregon sent packages from 14 states many different groups cooperated One Primary department took up a soap-offering. 'Our Primaries were thrilled to bring the contribution of soap and thread,' wrote another. One Westminster Fellowship packed the things contributed by their church. One Girls' Scout Troup sent gifts. A Guild Sunday School class helped pay the express. One husband paid the ~~express.~~ transportation. "One woman says that I must not deny her the privilege of paying the express charge; Some grandchildren kept phoning their

grandmother to ask if their clothes had gone yet to the Chinese children. A large box came from an unknown group from a Christian Church in Oak Park. Strangers of Baptist and Christian Scienee churches sent things. One Christian Science man took clothes and money some distance to a Presbyterian church to get his contribution included. Two old ladies 78 and 86 years of age had pieced the quilts; baby quilts were made by the ladies of a Home. A university, as if dynamited, sent 9 cartons of students' clothes. There are more stories, I am sure, if I only knew them. Gifts came prepaid from 11 different states and from 35 towns in Oregon. The total of the prepaid transportation would be a great sum to pay I am sure.

A Partial Count was made.

One night we had prayer meeting in between the tables. Some of the older folks made a partial count: 90 mens' heavy overcoats; 280 womens' heavy coats; 118 mens' suits; 102 pairs of trousers: 700 cakes of soap; and 2 huge packing boxes of blankets and covers. Those were a long table, each of babies' and children's clothing; hundreds of womens' dresses; large quanity of cotton batting, including a whole gunny sack from Texas; several large cartons of yardage, much of it new; and piles of bath robes, blouses, shoes, socks, ad infinitum. A marvelous outpouring.

Cloth and Vitamins

From the money gifts, so far, 125 yards of new cloth have been purchased. $100.00 worth of high potency vitamins were ordered. Then Miss Fan's letter came, " We could not have existed another 6 months". "Many

who should be living have died,other are sick who should not be, and the young are pre-maturely old."

After that another $70. 00 was added to the order. That bought 10,000 vitamins and a doctor had a house cleaning,adding many more. Some food supplies were also bought under this account.

God Prepared A Packer

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